



Mayor Jim Watson
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, ON K1P 1J1

February 2, 2022

Dear Mayor Watson:

As you know, CF Rideau Centre has been a landmark of Ottawa's downtown core for almost four decades. It plays an important role in the social, cultural and economic fabric of the city, and it provides employment for some 1,500 hard-working citizens employed by 175 businesses that call CF Rideau Centre home.

Since Saturday, January 29, 2022, CF Rideau Centre has been closed to the public and on February 1, Cadillac Fairview was compelled to announce that the property would remain closed until Sunday, February 6.

The ongoing closure of an important community space, the loss of employment income, and the financial impact on our tenants is heart-breaking given all of our shared pain and sacrifice during the pandemic.

CF fully supports the right to peaceful protest and peaceful assembly, but the situation within and around CF Rideau Centre has - at times - been far from peaceful or lawful. On Saturday, Rideau Centre staff and patrons experienced hostile disregard for masking by-laws, intimidation by protestors, and confrontational behaviour during operations and then during closure procedures. The Centre's compliance with public health guidelines has made us a target to some, and we cannot in good conscience re-open when we are unable to guarantee the safety of our visitors, tenants and employees.

It is in these circumstances that I write personally to ask for your help ending the on-going public safety risks that are preventing CF Rideau Centre from opening its doors.

We are grateful to your office and the Ottawa Police Service for your on-going leadership and transparency, and like you, our primary concern is for public safety. While the situation continues, we request ongoing updates from your office, the police and other agencies on the current state of issues and risks we face. We require that information daily to make an informed decision to keep CF Rideau Centre closed. We also want to ensure you have a clear channel to seek our assistance and support in any fashion that would facilitate a peaceful resolution as quickly as possible.

Mr. Mayor, the situation in Ottawa's downtown core is untenable. People cannot connect. Businesses cannot operate. Communities cannot build. These are the very hardships our society has struggled and sacrificed to overcome these past two years.

We appreciate that the situation continues to evolve, but the citizens who live and work in the core need all levels of government to work together to ensure they are able to return to their lives and places of employment with confidence that it is safe to do so.





If there is ongoing protest activity, even in a diminished capacity, we urgently need your support, and the support of other leaders in government, to respond, re-open, and help revive this city.

Thank you for listening. I am available 24 hours a day to your office if we can help in any way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sal Iacono', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sal Iacono
Executive Vice President, Operations
Cadillac Fairview
416-598-8745

c.c. [Peter Sloly; Premier Doug Ford; Minister Marco Mendicino]